

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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APPLICANTS: H. Saiga et al.

SERIAL NO. 10/049,513

FILED: February 12, 2002

FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD OF IMAGE CODING, APPARATUS AND
 METHOD OF IMAGE DECODING, AND COMPUTER-READABLE
 RECORDING MEDIUM RECORDED WITH RESPECTIVE IMAGE
 CODING AND DECODING PROGRAMS

EXAMINER: To Be Assigned

GROUP: To Be Assigned

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

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MAY 16 2002

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and all papers referred to therein) is being deposited
 with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
 Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on May 1, 2002.

Kathryn A. Grindrod
 Kathryn A. Grindrod

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to its initial review, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend Claim 22 as follows:

22. (Amended) An image coding apparatus comprising:

a bit plane generator (303) dividing unitary image data into a plurality of bit planes
 determined depending upon the number of bits forming each pixel,